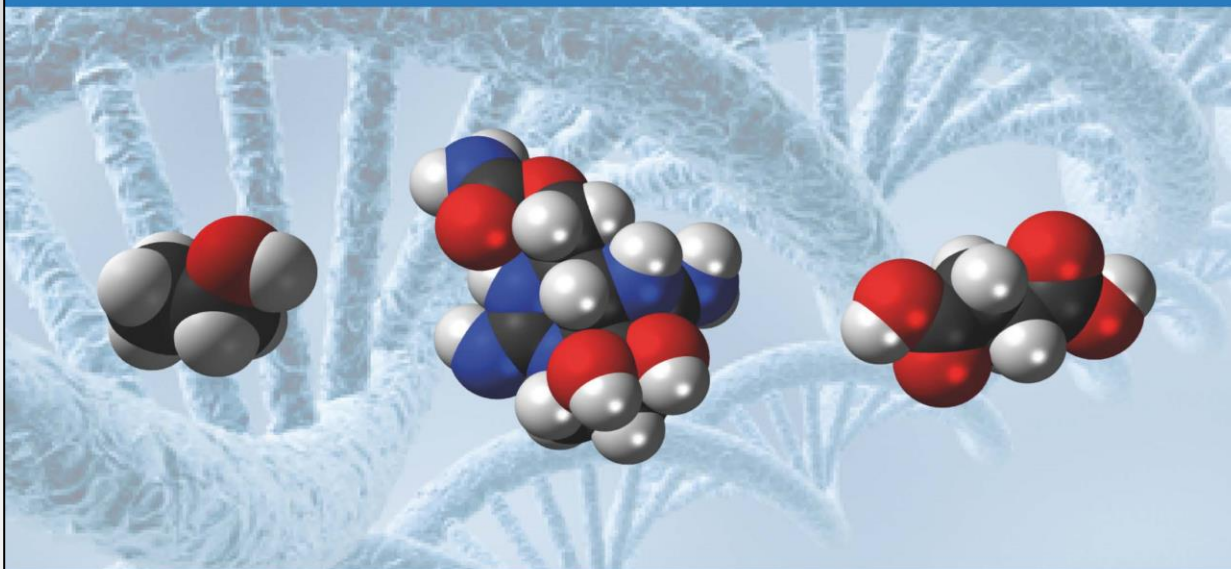




## 19th Conference of the States Parties



# Science for Diplomats

## The Science of the Bioeconomy

**Jonathan E. Forman, Ph.D.**  
Science Policy Adviser  
Office of Strategy and Policy  
OPCW

**Dr. Henrike Gebhardt**  
Senior Project Manager Bioeconomy  
Corporate Innovation Strategy & Management  
Evonik Industries AG



**SAB Report of the Developments  
in S&T to The Third review Conference**  
(RC-3/DG.1, Dated 29 October 2012)

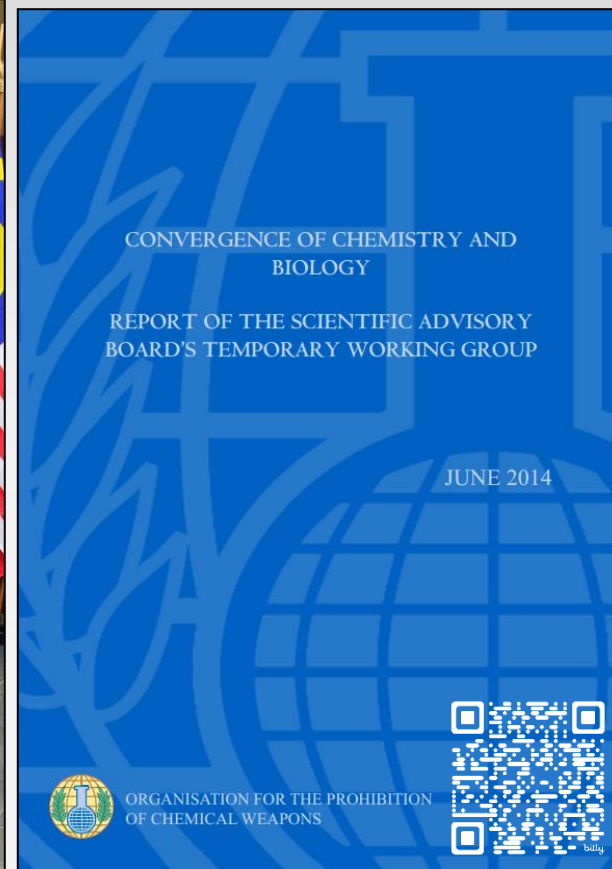
**Director General's Recommendations**  
(RC-3/DG.2, Dated 31 January 2013)

**Response to the Report of the Twenty-First  
Session of the Scientific Advisory Board**  
(EC-77/DG.10, Dated 5 September 2014)

**Status of the Follow-Up to the Recommendations  
on S&T to the Third Review Conference**  
(EC-77/DG.11, Dated 5 September 2014)



# The Temporary Working Group on Convergence



**(see EC-77/DG.10, dated 5 September 2014 for  
Director-General response to recommendations)**

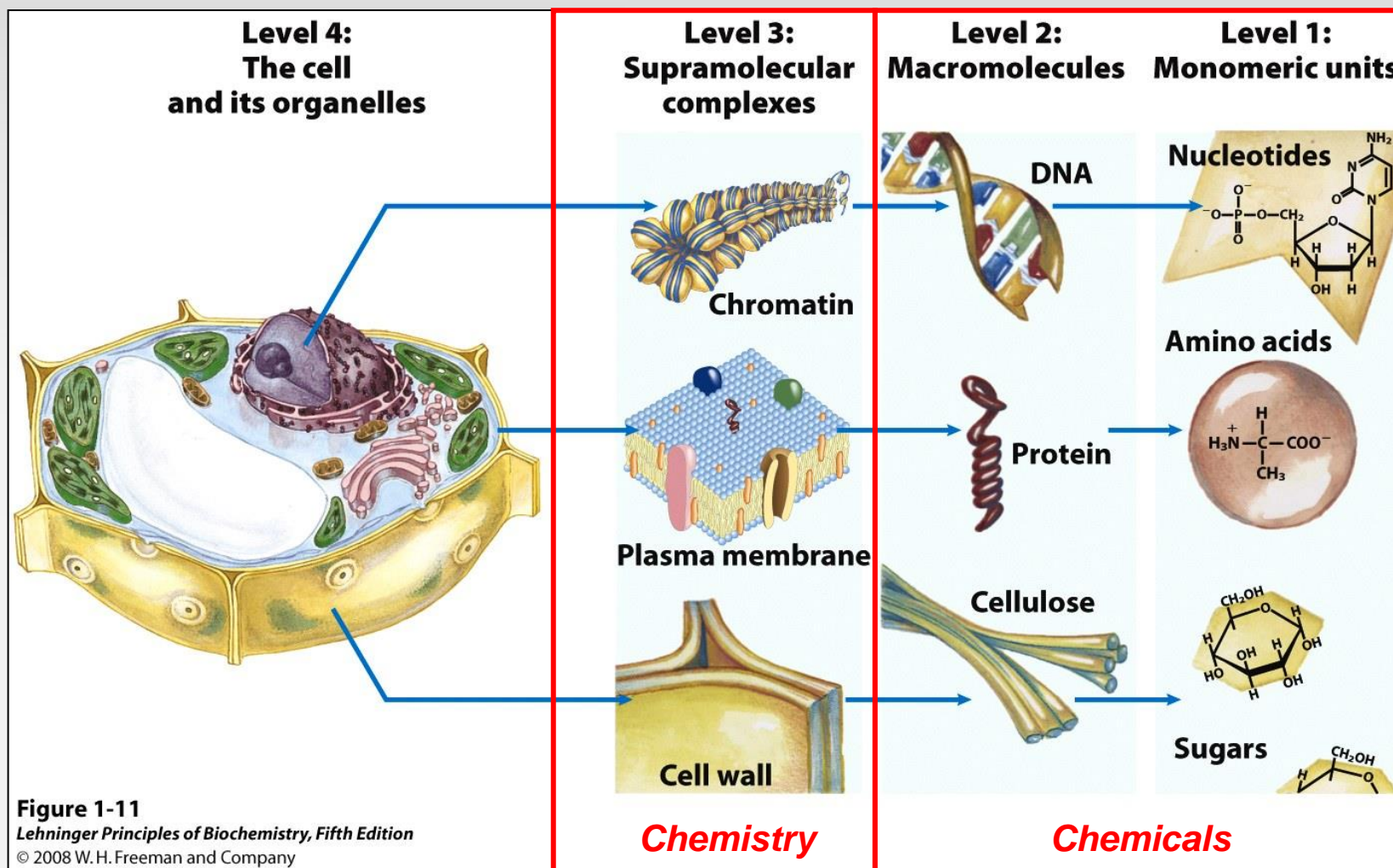


# Recommendations from the TWG on Convergence

- 19 Recommendations presented in report; **Status in EC-77/DG.10**
- Continue to **monitor** advances and trends in **production technologies** and assess the relevance of these processes to verification under the CWC.
- **Monitor** advances in **systems and synthetic biology**, particularly in terms of enhancing the capability and capacity to synthesise more complex chemicals.
- **Monitor** advances in **nanotechnology**, particularly as they apply to improved defensive countermeasures against CW.
- Consider **development of outreach materials** to assist States Parties in understanding possible implications for the CWC.
- Establish a structured approach to **maintain contact with the BWC community**.
- Consider re-activating the TWG on Convergence periodically, in order to assess recent advances

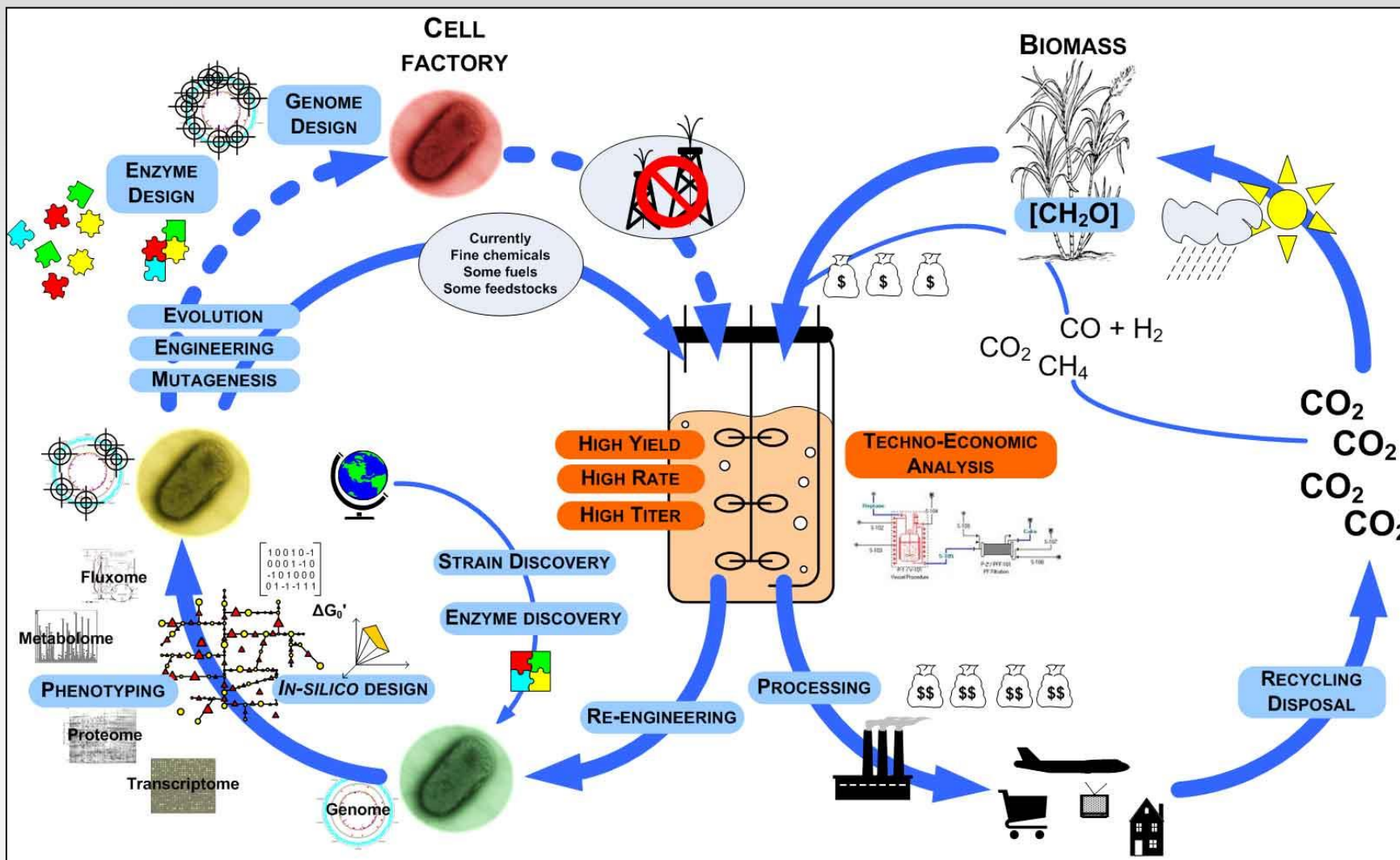


# Chemistry Underpins Biology



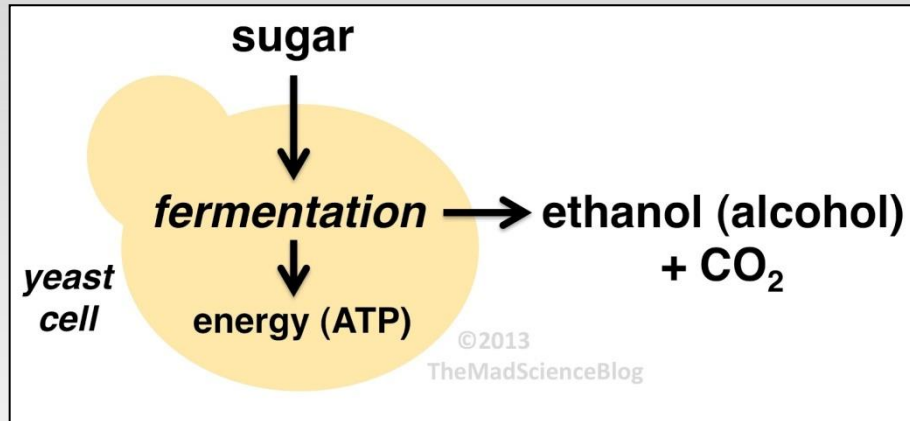


# Bio-Mediated Chemical Production





# Bio-Mediated Chemical Production: The Basics





# Emerging trend

## Countries establishing bioeconomy initiatives/roadmap

Bioeconomy to contribute a global average of 2.7% to GDP by 2030 (OECD estimates)





# The science of the Bioeconomy

**Dr. Henrike Gebhardt**

05 December 2014



**EVONIK**  
INDUSTRIES

Our positioning

**Evonik is the creative industrial group from Germany and one of the world's leading specialty chemicals companies.**

Our credo

**The Bioeconomy is one driver to promote a more resource-efficient and sustainable economy.**

**Industrial biotechnology is a key technology for realising the bioeconomy.**

# Overview

**Bioeconomy**

**Biotechnology**

**Genetic engineering**

# Definitions

## **Bioeconomy**

Production of renewable biological resources and the conversion of these resources and waste streams into value added products, such as food, feed, and other industrial products and energy. COM(2012) 60, EU Commission, mod.

## **Bio-based products**

Products wholly or partly derived from biomass. EN 16575

# Bio-based products offered by Evonik

bio-based

## Polyamids

VESTAMID®Terra



## Polyesters

DYNACOLL®Terra



DYNAPOL®Terra



VISIOMER®Terra



## Additives

BioMTBE



## Amino acids

Feed additives



Health – purified



## Cosmetics

TEGOSOFT®MM



## Additives

VISCOPLEX®  
Series 10



## Cleaning

Esterquats



## Health

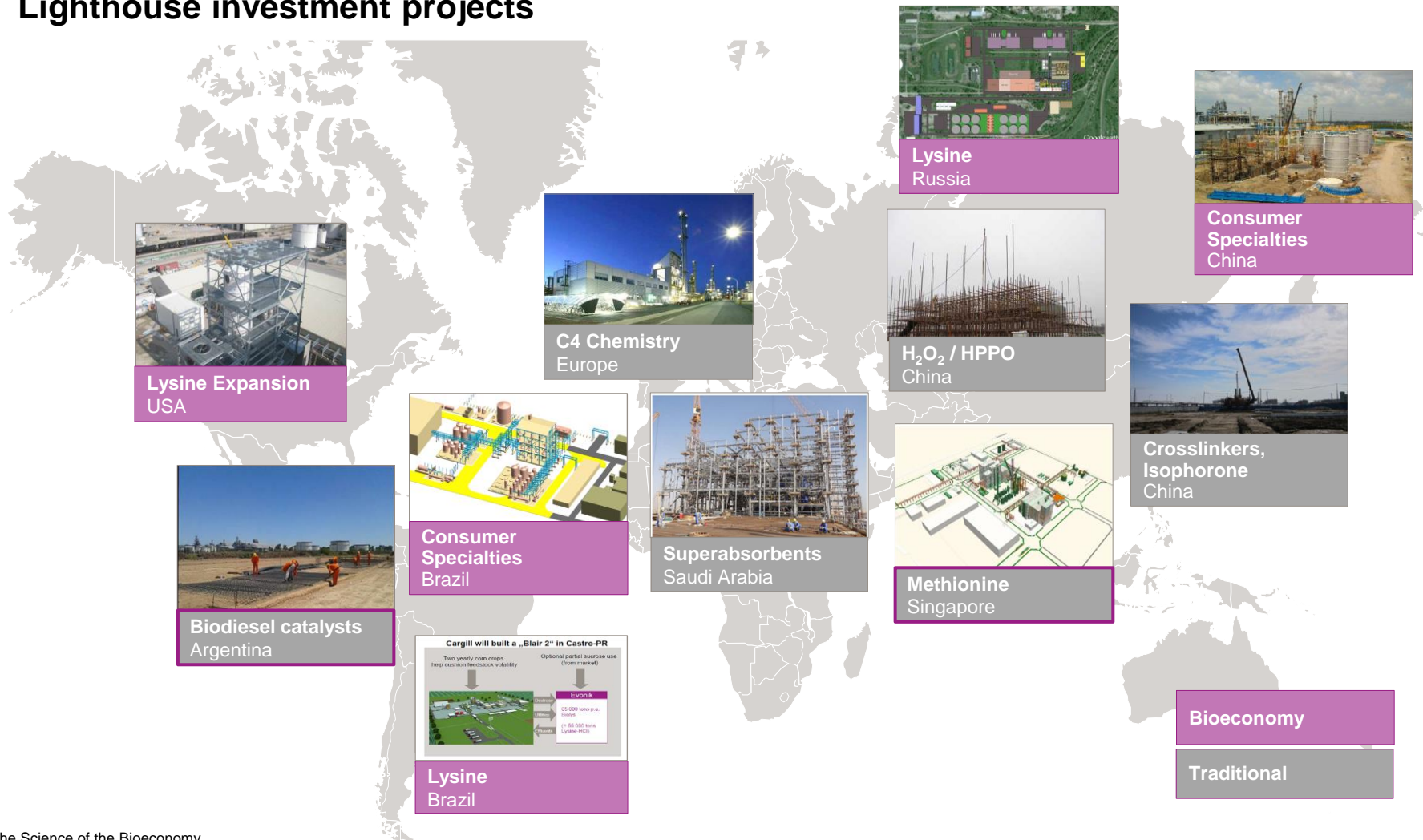
RESOMER®



bio-  
degradable

# Evonik invests in high-growth chemical megatrends

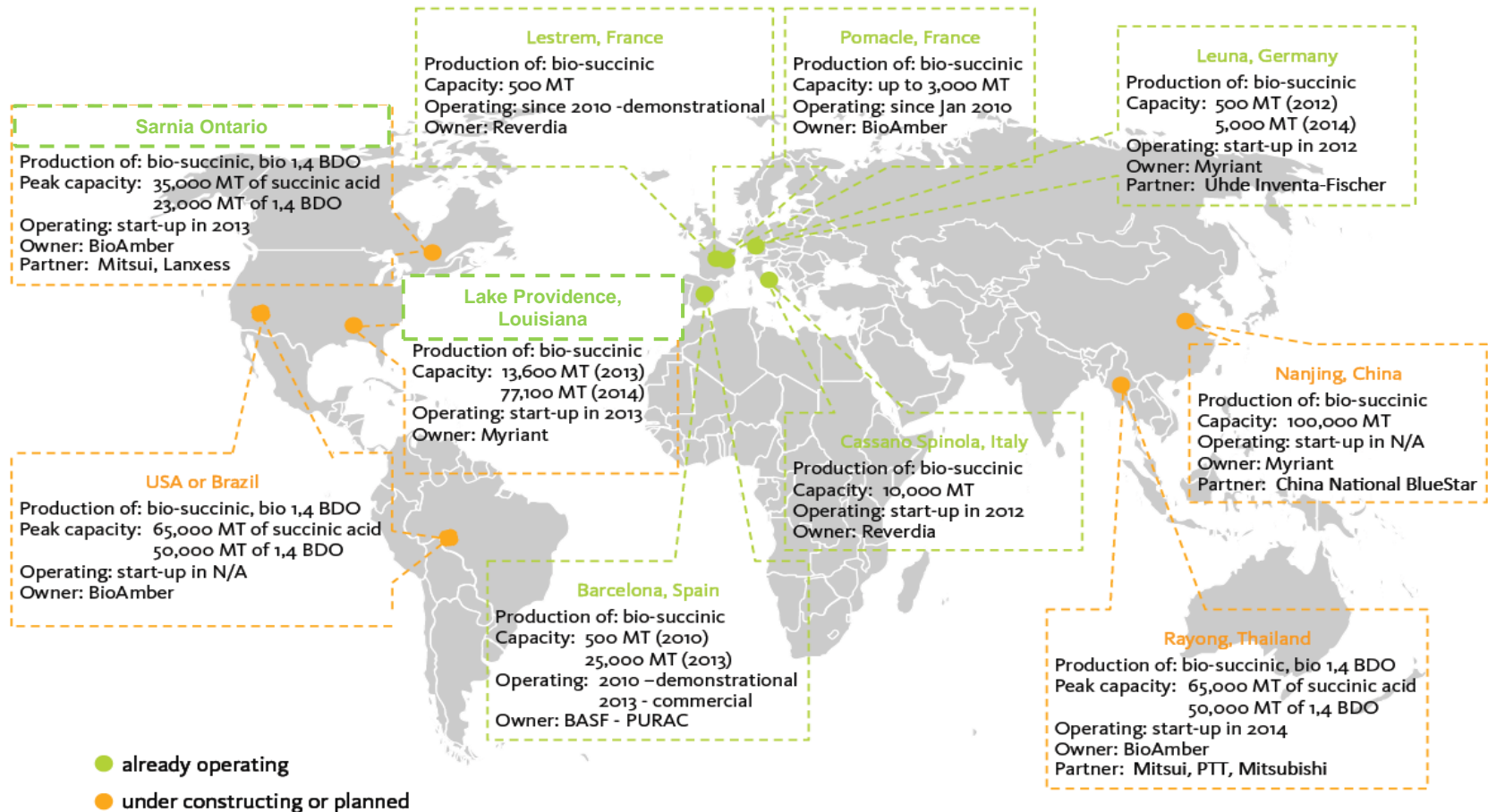
## Lighthouse investment projects



<b>Company</b>	<b>Raw Material</b>	<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>Product</b>
<b>Date of Issue</b>		<b>Volume</b>	<b>Commissioning</b>
<b>DSM/POET (USA)</b> Jan 2012	Cellulosics from corn cobs	Ethanol 90 kta	Biofuels H1.2014
<b>Purac/BASF (ES)</b> Mar 2014	Cellulosics	Succinic acid 10 kt	e. g. Biopolymers 03.2014
<b>Solvay/NBE (US)</b> Mar 2014	Sawmill residues	Torrefied biomass 250 kt	Substitute coal Q4.2014
<b>LanzaTech (USA)</b> Aug 2010	Wood residues (syngas)	Ethanol 15 kt	Biofuels 2014
<b>Butamax (USA)</b> Oct 2013	Corn mash	Butanol ~180 kt	Biofuels 2015



# Commercializing bio-based succinic acid technology – first operating plants in Europe, expansion in Asia/Americas



Source: Determination of market potential for selected platform chemicals, weastra, 2012

# Europe will depend on import of renewable carbon sources

Expected biomass trade routes by 2020, TWh

➔ Vegetable oil and bioethanol

➔ Biomass



Source: World economic forum 2010; the future of industrial biorefineries

# Overview

## Bioeconomy

### Bio-based products

Products wholly or partly derived from biomass. EN 16575

## Biotechnology

### Genetic engineering

# Technologies

## **Bioeconomy**

### **Bio-based products**

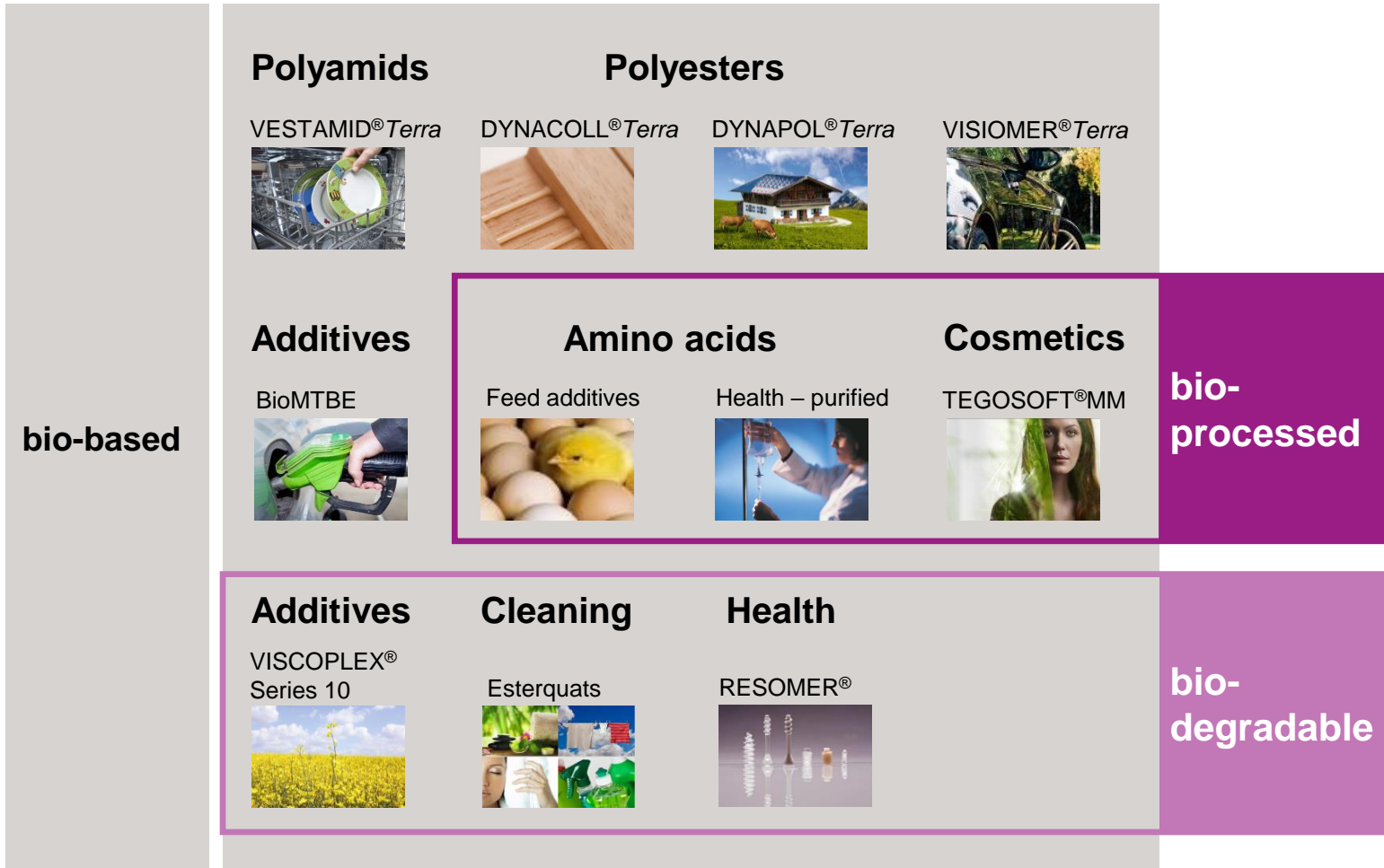
can be produced by conventional chemical processes or by biotechnology

## **Biotechnology**

The use of living organisms or their components to make products.

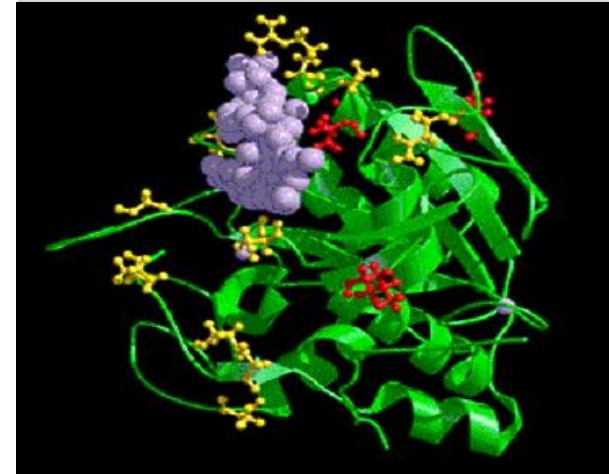
## **Genetic engineering**

# Bio-based products offered by Evonik



## Bio-catalysis:

use of natural catalysts such as isolated enzymes or whole-cells to perform chemical transformations



## Fermentation:

use the metabolism of a whole living cell to produce substances e.g. chemicals

Performed in bio-reactor or fermenter



# Bio-reactor - Production

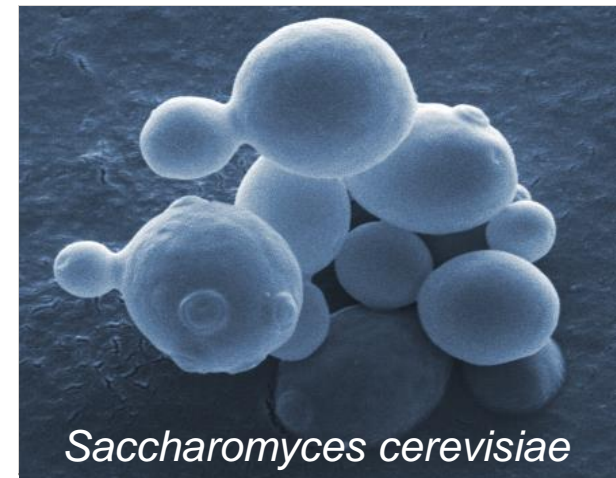
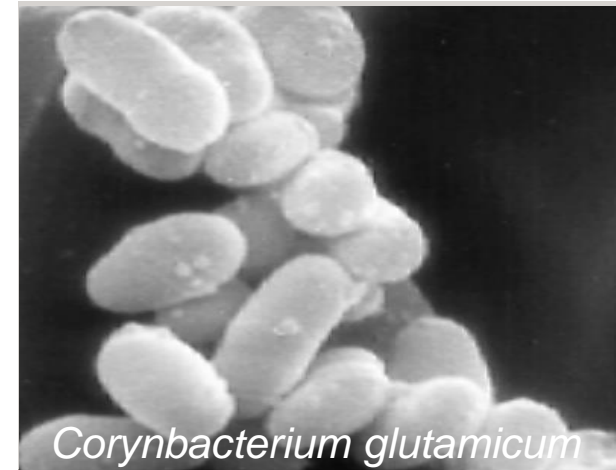


## Micro-organisms

- Bacteria e. g. *Corynebacterium glutamicum*  
Product: sodium-glutamate, flavour enhancing compound, umami taste of food
- Yeast e. g. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*  
Product: bread, beer

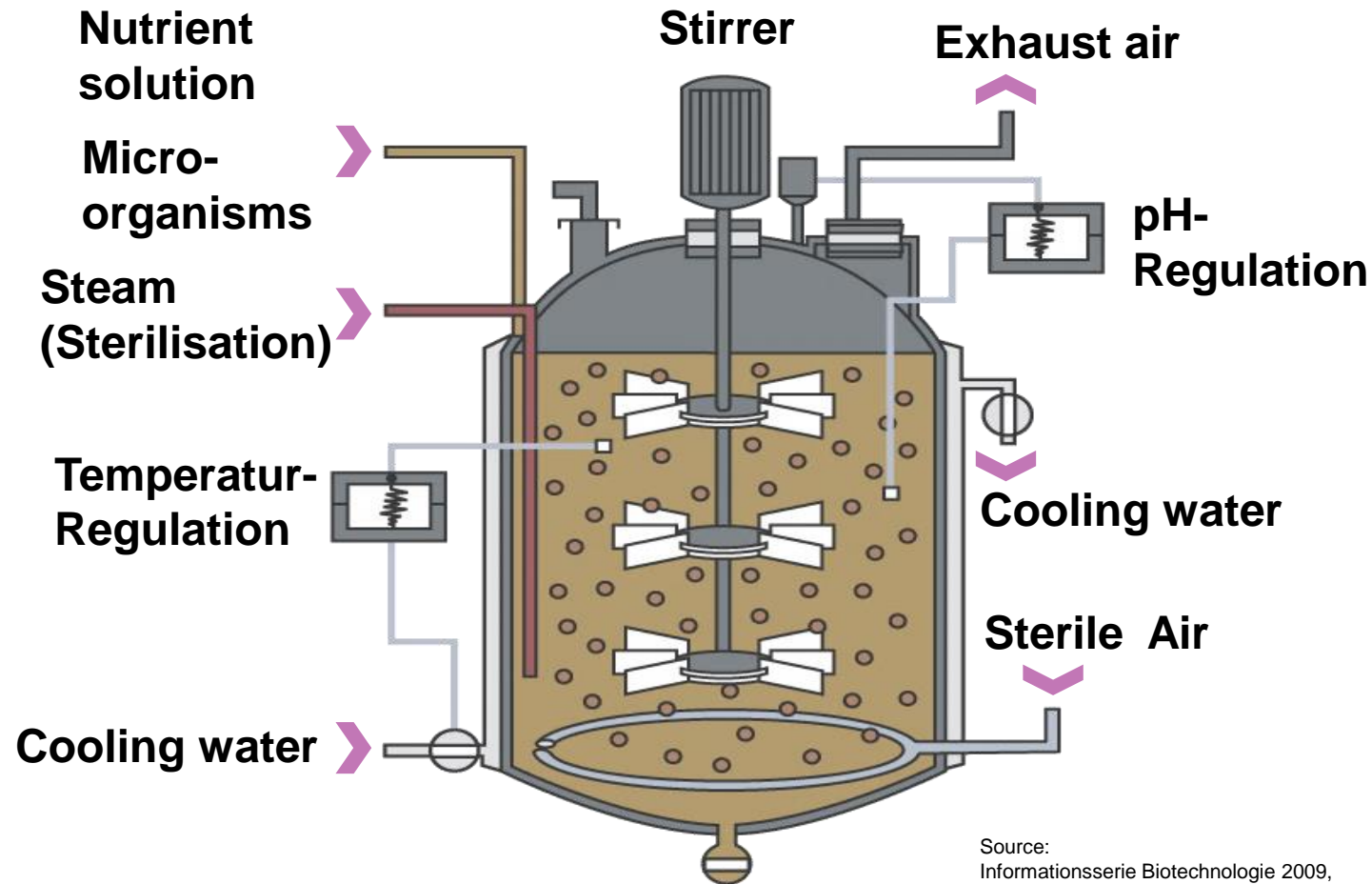
## Higher Organisms

Cells of mammals, humans, insects, plants





# Bio-reactor - Principle



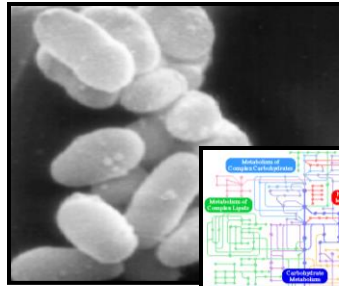
Source:  
Informationsserie Biotechnologie 2009,  
Fonds der Chemischen Industrie.

# Example: Fermentation to produce amino acids

Sugar → Fermentation →

Amino acid L-lysine

→ Feed additive



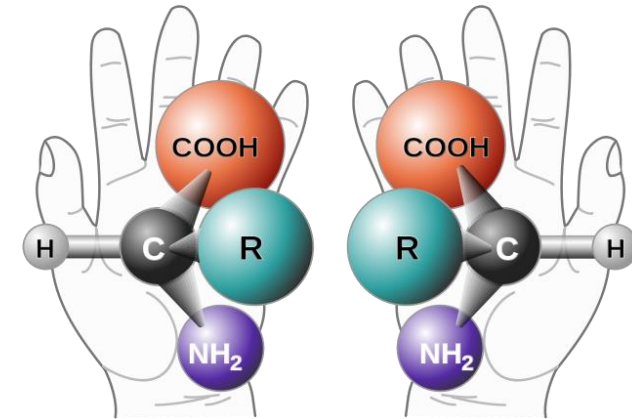
# Advantages of biotechnology compared to chemical synthesis

## Specificity and selectivity

Final product derived directly, not via intermediate

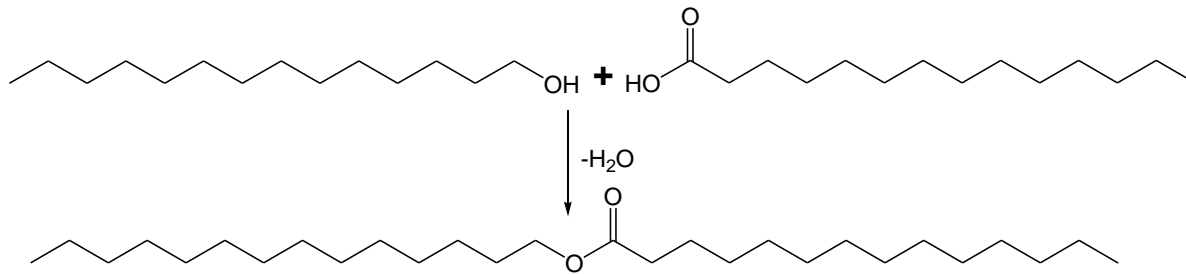
Stereoselective synthesis of chiral compounds  
e. g. only L-amino acid, no D-amino acid

- no racemates (mixture of D/L)
- no complex separation process
- no impurities in final product

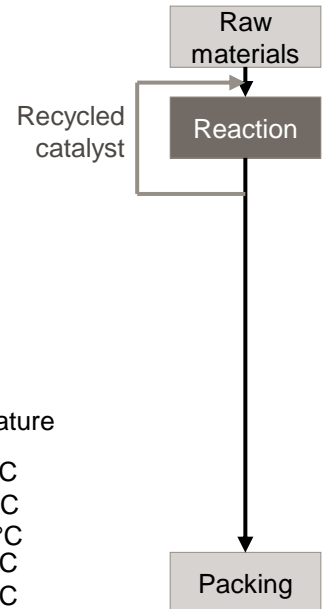
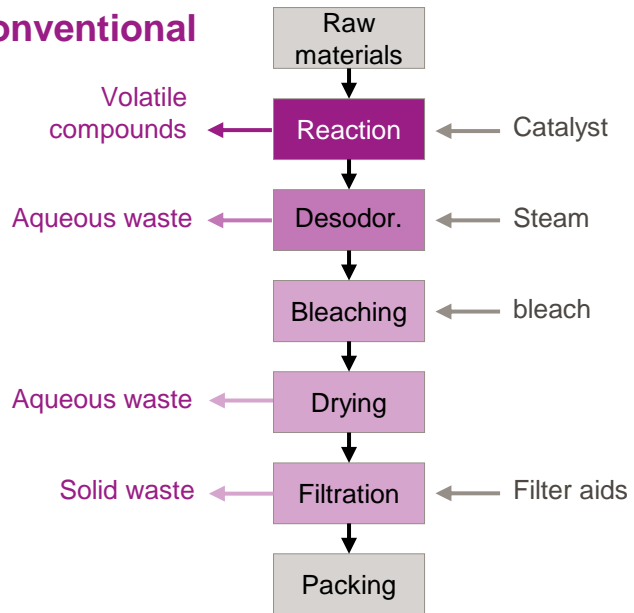


Source: Wikimedia Commons

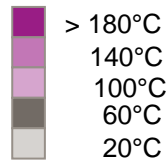
# Sustainability that goes under the skin: Myristyl myristate for cosmetics



## Conventional



Applied temperature



## Enzymatic - Biocatalysis

- Less steps
- Lower temperatures
- Less energy
- Less waste
- More resource efficiency

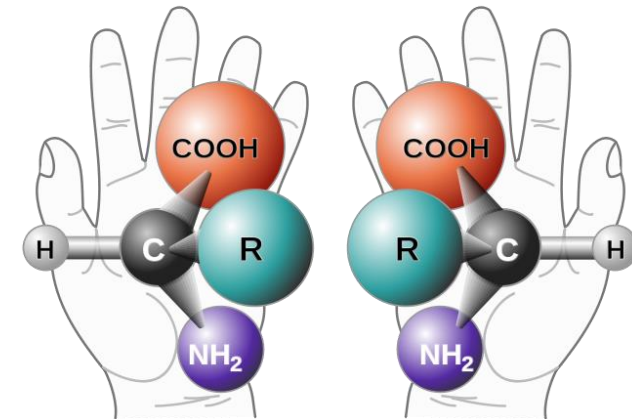
# Advantages of biotechnology compared to chemical synthesis

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Stereoselective synthesis of chiral compounds  
e. g. only L-amino acid, no D-amino acid

- no racemates (mixture of D/L)
- no complex separation process
- no impurities in final product



Source: Wikimedia Commons

## Efficiency and environmental sustainability

- Economic / safe feedstocks: water, sugar, air, salts
- Mild / safe process conditions: room temperature, atmospheric pressure, medium pH
- Less energy needed, less waste produced

# Technologies

## **Bioeconomy**

Bio-based products can be produced by conventional chemical processes or by biotechnology

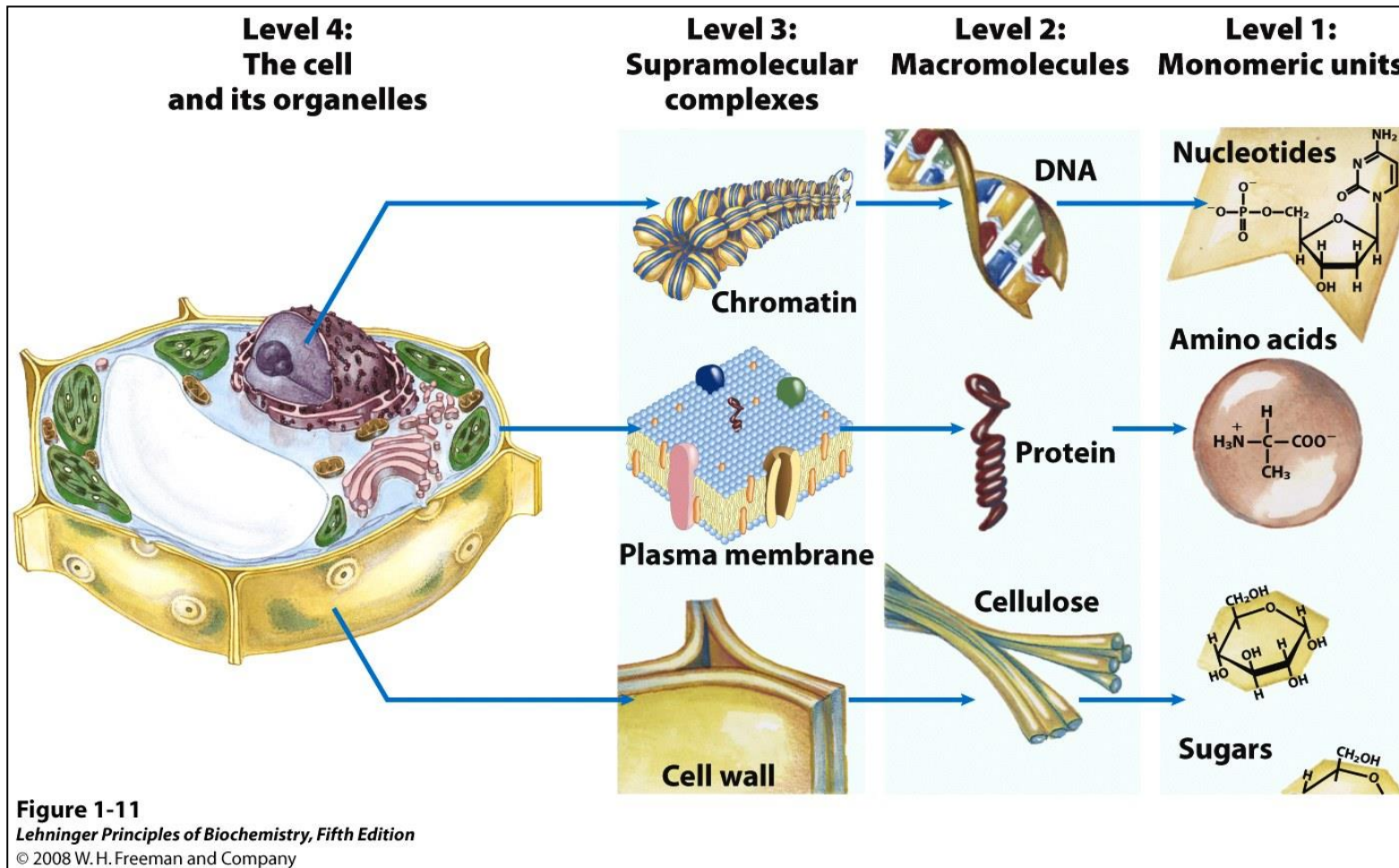
## **Biotechnology**

The use of living organisms or their components to make products.

## **Genetic engineering**

Any of various applications of biological science used in the manipulation of the genome of an organism

# The Genome



# Genetic engineering methods to generate producing strain

## Mutagenesis



Chemicals  
or radiation



Exchange of nucleotide

## Recombination



Availability of  $10^{11}$  genes  
(biodiversity)  
Recombination in vector



Additional gene

Selection of desired property



Producing strain

Source:  
Informationsserie Biotechnologie 2009,  
Fonds der Chemischen Industrie.

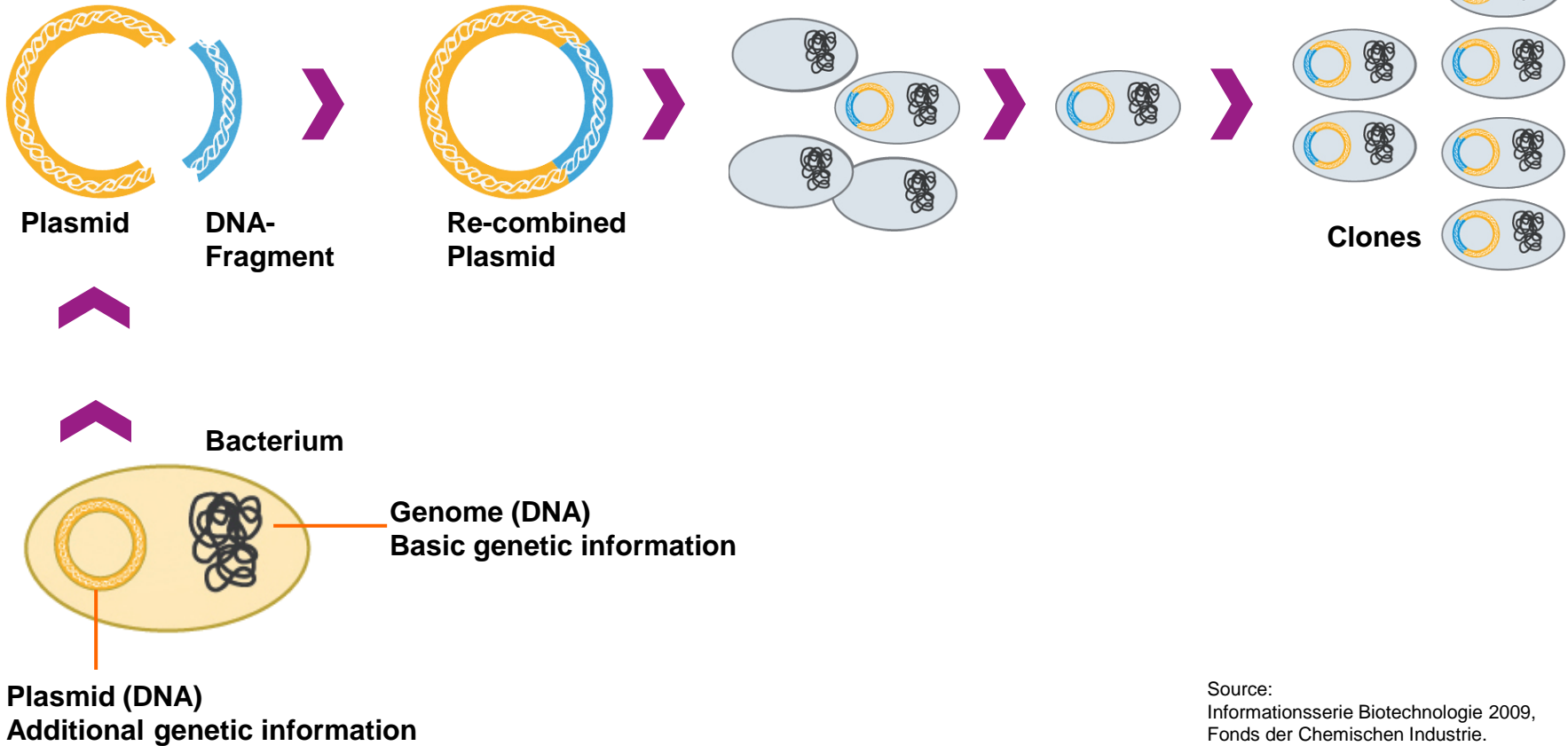


# Recombination of DNA and transformation into bacterial cell

Integration of new fragment

Transformation into host cell

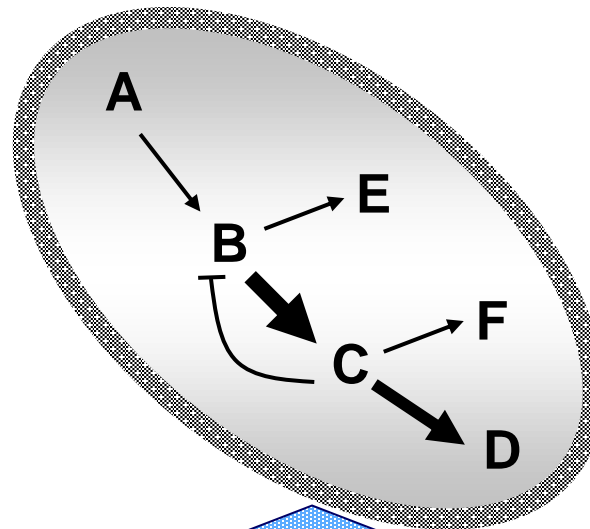
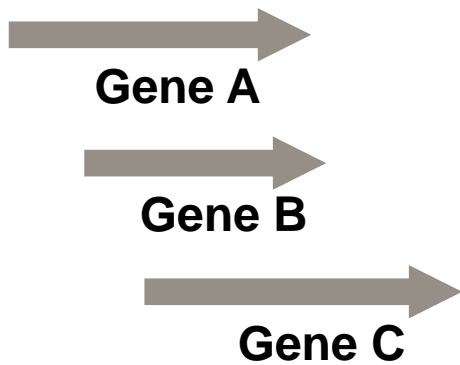
Selection Multiplication



Source:  
Informationsserie Biotechnologie 2009,  
Fonds der Chemischen Industrie.

# Cell factories to provide customized precursors

Genetic information from different sources



Implementation of synthetic pathway into microbial cells



Raw material

Gene A



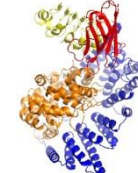
Enzyme A

Gene B



Enzyme B

Gene C

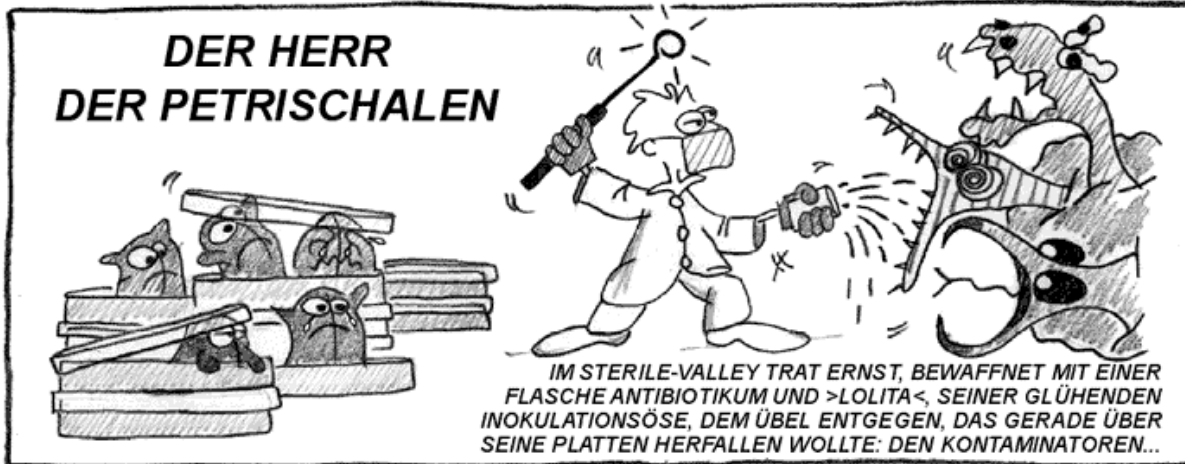
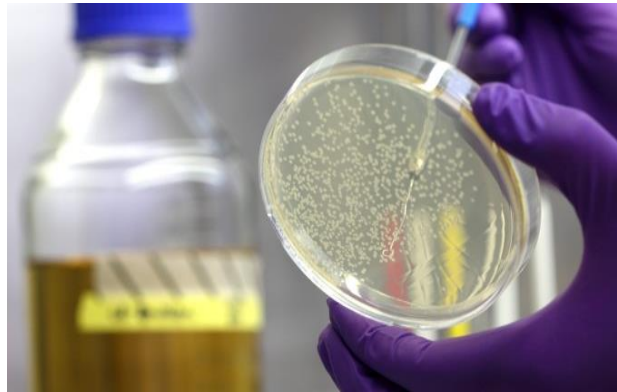


Enzyme C



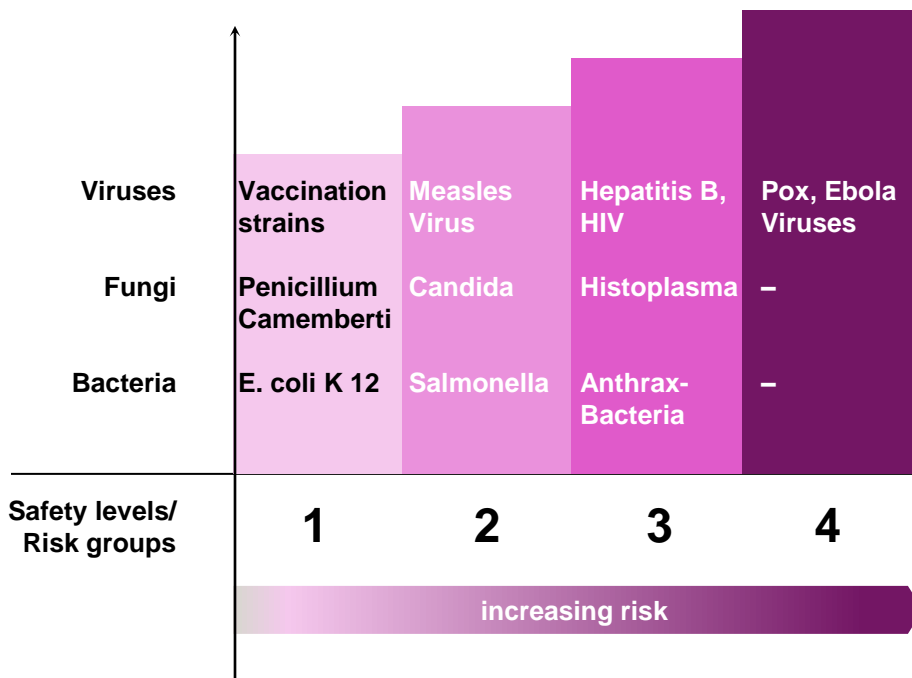
Product

# Is genetic engineering dangerous?



# Risk Groups and Biosafety Level Definitions

## Risk Groups (World Health Organization)



## Biosafety Levels

Safety Level	Description
S1	no or low individual and community risk
S2	moderate individual risk, low community risk
S3	high individual risk, low community risk
S4	high individual and community risk

Source: Informationsserie Biotechnologie 2009, Fonds der Chemischen Industrie.

# Potential chemical weapons from living organisms: Toxins

- Use of toxins is covered by
  - 1925 Geneva Protocol
  - Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention of 1972
  - Chemical Weapons Convention
- Toxins are poisons produced by living organisms e.g. bacteria, fungi, algae and plants
- Toxins are peptides, proteins or low-molecular organic compounds
- Toxins are less suitable for dispersal on a large scale. Nonetheless, they could be used for sabotage or in especially designed inputs, e.g. against key persons.
- Most toxins are unstable in alkaline water solutions and are thus easily destroyed by means of normal decontamination methods.

# Examples Bacterial Toxins



## **Botulinum toxin**

produced by *Clostridium botulinum*, causes a severe form of food-poisoning (botulism),  
used in treating squinting and other muscular disorders.

## **Staphylococcus enterotoxin type B**

produced by *Staphylococcus aureus*,  
causes food-poisoning symptoms

## **Saxitoxin**

produced by blue-green algae (*cyanobacteria*) which  
are food for mussels,  
attacks the nervous system and has a paralyzing effect,  
included in Schedule 1 of the CWC

Source: A FOA Briefing Book on Chemical Weapons.

# Examples Plant Toxin and Bioregulators



## Plant Toxin

**Ricin** extracted from seeds of the castor oil plant or produced by *E. coli*, blocks the body's synthesis of proteins, death frequently occurs through heart failure, included in Schedule 1 of the CWC

## Bioregulators

No toxins, but possible use is similar

Example: Substance P, a polypeptide, causes a rapid loss of blood pressure which may cause unconsciousness

Source: A FOA Briefing Book on Chemical Weapons.